THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various speakers discussed the applicability of Laser and Ultrasonic aspirator with regard to their use in Neurosurgery. Most of the speakers agreed that Laser and Ultrasonic aspirater have a great role to play Most of the tumors especially vascular tumors can be removed with ease. It is of particular use in basal meningiomas, acoustic neuroma, thalamic tumours, brainstem and spinal cord tumors. Use of these high-tech equipments reduces the blood required during surgery, increases the safety margin by decreasing the need for manipulation within the brain and spinal cord and tumour in the depth can be removed more safely.

Consensus of opinion was that this facility must be provided in institutions concerned with postgraduate training (Super speciality training).

(c) The Government of India have not yet received the recommendations of the three-day International Workshop on laser Neurological Surgery.

Pondicherry Airport

1182. SHRI M KADHARSHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision regarding the construction of a new airport at Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) adn (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to construct STOL airport at Pondicherry for Vayudoot operations. A site at Karuvadikuppam has also been selected

International Airport at Madras

1183. SHRI M KADHARSHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 260 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th November, 1986 and state :

(a) the progress made in regard to construction of International Airport at Madras;

(b) what is the amount allocated for the purpose and the amount spent so far;

(c) by when it will be ready; and

(d) the reason if any, for its slow implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) 56% of the construction work on the New International Terminal complex at Madras Airport has been completed so far.

(b) The project is estimated to cost Rs. 17 49 Crores. An expenditure of Rs 5 07 crores has been incurred upto 31-10-1987. A provision of Rs. 5 00 crores and Rs. 8 00 crores has been made for the project in the Revised Estimate 87-88 and Budget Estimate 88-89 respectively.

(c) The International complex is expected to be ready by 31-3 1989

(d) The work is progressing according to schedule.

Outmoded urine test for sugar

1184 SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 24th October, 1987 concerning a Drug Firms bait to doctors in order to promote a new production item for ready testing of sugar in urine of diabetes which is outmoded and difficult to be performed by General practitioners; and

(b) if so, what corrective measures have been taken/proposed to be taken under Consumers Protection Act or Medical ethics of any other powers vested with the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The news item which appeared in the Times of India

dated 24th October, 1987 refers to a new diagnostic method for ready testing of Sugar in Urine 'the strip method'. This procedure of determining sugar in urine is not outmoded and is based on latest immunological methods.

(b) Such diagnestic methods are meant for consumer-convenience and are not a threat to Consumer protection.

Exorbitant Air freight rates

1185 SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that exorbitant air freight rates have adversely affected our fruit and vegetable export business; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take any steps in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) No, Sir. In fact highly discounted Govt. mandatory air freight rates are available for export of fruits and vegetables from India to various points in middle east. Also discounted specific commodity rates are available for export of fruits and vegetables from India to destinations in Europe, UK, USA, Japan and Singapore. The export of perishable through Air India has shown an increasing trend in 1986-87 as compared to 1985-86.

(b) Does not arise.

Permission to Maharashtra Government to Levy Entry Tax

1186. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given permission to the Government of Maharashtra to Levy Entry Tax on vehicles entering the State; and

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to do away with octroi etc. and to encourage free flow of traffic and trade; if so, what is the justification to allow the levy of Entry Tax ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has been emphasising on the State Governments the need for abolition of octroi and encouraging free flow of traffic and trade.

The Entry Tax on Motor Vehicles, levied by the Government of Maharashtra, envisages reducing the disparity, prevalent amongst various States and Union Territories as a result of levying low rates of Sales Tax as compared to the Sales Tax rates prevalent in Maharashtra. This tax is not likely to create any hindrance to the free flow of traffic, as vehicles merely passing through Maharashtra or being temporarily used in the State would not be subject to the tax and only those vehicles required to be registered in Maharashtra under the M V. Act, 1939 would be liable to pay the tax.

Response by State Governments to New Education Policy

1187. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to the States and Union Territories to introduce the reforms envisaged in the New Education Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the response received from different States and Union Territories; and

(c) the number of States and Union Territories which have introduced the new policy and are trying the reforms envisaged therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Almost all State Governments/UTs have set up necessary mechanisms for undertaking effective implementation of NPE. Copies of document entitled "National Policy on Education—1986—Implementation Report" detailing the progress of implementation of the NPE-1986 in the States (and the Centre) have been laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 28-8-1987.